Promotion of Traditional Industries

915. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken to promote the traditional industries of the Tribals and the Scheduled Casta people and make them economically viable in comparison to other similar modern industries;

(b) the incentives Government propose to provide to the handicraft-based cottage industries and in finding markets for such products in India and abroad; and

(c) the assistance the Union Government propose to provide in order to ensure that the raw materials required for these industries are available at reasonable rates and in sufficient quantities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). The participation of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes forms an integral part of the overall programme of KVIC. The programmes of KVIC are primarily directed at the improvement and upliftment of SCs/STs and other weaker sections of the community. The traditional industries where participation of SC/St is significant are woollen khadi weaving, village leather, non-edible oil seeds collection, bee-keeping, fibre etc. The participation of SC/ST in the total employment provided by KVIC accounts for nearly 30 per cent. The following important steps have been taken to promote traditional industries of SC/STs:-

1. Special programmes have been taken up in selected districts of the country especially to benefit to SC/STs;

2. Set apart part of the budget allocation specially for SC/STs;

3. Preparation of separate plans suited to the benefit of tribals and SCs;

4. Extension of liberalised pattern of assistance to SC/STs; such liberalised patterns are 75 percent grant and 25 percent loan for purchase of machineries/tools, equipment/implement and 50 percent grant and 50 percent loan for construction of buildings.

5. Allowing major institutions to have extra assistance over and above the celing limit of Rs. 2.50 crores provided they utilise the additional funds specially for the benefit of SC/STs.

(c) KVIC promotes village industries which are generally based on the locally available raw materials. It also assists institutions and cooperatives through State KVI Boards in the provision of raw materials. KVIC has proposals to create raw material stocks so that the same can be provided at the reasonable rates and sufficient quantities to the indentee institutions.

Losses in Public Sector Undertakings

916. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public Sector Undertakings which are incurring losses and the extent of cumulative losses incurred by them by the end of March, 1991;

(b) the details of each industry;